

as part of the struggle against domestic and foreign exploitation. The book is in line with a movement that has been increasingly articulate in Chilean historical writing in recent years. Even those who do not go to the lengths of Jobet in finding the key to Chilean history in his version of "materialismo histórico" must recognize the importance of the book in helping to correct the narrower political emphasis of the older generation of Chilean historians. A second edition has already appeared.

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*Guerra del Pacífico, 1879. "Verdad, sepultura de la difamación." Respuesta a la diatriba de Francisco A. Encina en el tomo XVI de su Historia de Chile.* By HECTOR WILLIAMS. Valparaíso, 1955. Illustration. Index. Pp. 200.

A disorderly and angry denunciation of the treatment given the author's father, an admiral in the Chilean navy during the War of the Pacific, by Francisco Encina in his history of Chile. Admiral Williams is treated roughly by Encina, who follows Gonzalo Bulnes in downgrading him as a commander, though he recognizes his personal courage and integrity. This controversy is colored by politics and by prejudices for and against civilian and military figures of the period on both sides. The author appears to be successful in defending Williams against accusations that he was responsible for the bad condition of the Chilean ironclads at the beginning of the war, but he does not provide much positive proof of the admiral's keenness as naval commander. The book includes a number of polemical newspaper articles by the author and by some military and naval men who shared his views. In itself it seems to be inconclusive, but the author refers frequently to an earlier work *Justicia póstuma*, in which, apparently, more extensive parts of Admiral Williams' correspondence are published and which should be taken into account by those who wish to study the Chilean

conduct of the naval aspect of the War of the Pacific.

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*El naufragio de la fragata Wager.* By JOHN BYRON. Santiago, Chile, 1955. Zig-Zag. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 162.

In 1740-1741 John Byron, grandfather of the poet and subsequently known to his naval contemporaries as "Foul-weather Jack," was a young midshipman in Anson's squadron, then on its way to attack the Pacific coast of Spanish America and ultimately to circumnavigate the globe. His ship, the *Wager*, was wrecked off the south coast of Chile, and after surviving twelve months' incredible hardship which included mutiny, hunger, fatigue and extreme exposure, Byron and a few companions reached the island of Chiloé with the help of some friendly Indians; from thence they were conducted as prisoners-of-war first to Valparaíso and finally to Santiago. In spite of the character of their original mission they were well treated by the Spanish authorities, and after two pleasant years in Santiago they were returned to Europe. Over twenty years later, in 1768, Byron published a record of his experiences, a *Narrative, containing an account of the great distress suffered by himself and his companions on the Coasts of Patagonia . . . with a description of St. Iago de Chili, and the manners and customs of the inhabitants. . .* This went through various editions, and is now, though not for the first time, translated into Spanish. The book makes interesting reading, and some of the incidents—such as when he meets Jorge Juan and Antonio Ulloa on the voyage home—bring the history of the period to life. But most of the observation is light weight; his remarks on Spanish colonial society, though tolerant and generous, are neither extensive nor profound, and actually comprise less than one quarter of the narrative. A good adventure story.

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